

WARDEN MESSAGE – 2009-H1N1 INFLUENZA
U.S. Embassy, Bern, Switzerland
May 1, 2009

This Warden Message alerts U.S. citizens to the latest information regarding human cases of 2009-H1N1 Influenza, sometimes referred to as swine flu. As of May 1, the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health has so far reported one patient with confirmed 2009-H1N1 Influenza. Local authorities have set up a task force and issued guidelines for the public and travelers to affected countries.

The U.S. Embassy reminds U.S. citizens that most cases of influenza are not 2009-H1N1 Influenza. Any questions or concerns about influenza or other illnesses should be directed to a medical professional. Although the U.S. Embassy cannot provide medical advice or provide medical services to the public, a list of hospitals and doctors can be found on our website at http://bern.usembassy.gov/medical_information2.html.

For further information about H1N1 flu, including steps you can take to stay healthy, please consult the Department of State information at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_pandemic.html, the United States Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>, and the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>. For additional travel safety information, please consult the State Department's website at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>.

U.S. citizens may also call the Office of Overseas Citizens Services in the United States for the latest travel information. The Office of Overseas Citizens Services can be reached from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Monday through Friday, by calling 1-888-407-4747 from within the U.S. and Canada, or by calling (202) 501-4444 from other countries.

Americans living or traveling in Switzerland are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within Switzerland. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at Sulgeneckstrasse 19, 3007 Bern; telephone +41 31 357 7011 including emergencies; emergencies after hours, on weekends and holidays: +41 31 357 7777. The fax number for the consular section is +41 31 357 2780; e-mail address: bernacs@state.gov; website: <http://bern.usembassy.gov>.